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UNCLAS LAGOS 001636

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: LAGOS EAC MEETING ON INCREASED CRIME IN LAGOS AND SECURITY IN THE NIGER-DELTA 10/17/05

1. (U) Lagos EAC convened October 17 to review Post's security posture in response to what appears to be a marked increase in violent crime in Lagos, and to discuss appropriate precautions against such crime. NOTE: In the past few months armed bank robberies, prison riots, attacks on expatriates, and smash and grab car robberies have been reported on Victoria and Ikoyi island. A recent clash between police and army soldiers in a working class section of Lagos left several persons dead, others injured and resulted in significant property damage. The Niger-Delta region remains tense in light of the arrest of a prominent governor in London for money laundering, and the arrest of a local militant leader for treason. Ikoyi and Victoria islands are home to the American International School, the US Consulate General, and all US Consulate employees. In attendance were the CG, RSO, RAO, MGT, POL/ECON, DAO, DEA, FCS, MED, and FBI.

2. (SBU) Based on a consensus of the EAC, POST will implement the following:

- RSO will limit visits to the Niger-Delta (Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers) region by Consulate Employees to 2-3 days. Visits to the area should be limited to important official business only and only for the minimum time needed to transact that business

- RSO will require travelers to use armed REACT escort when driving to the outlying Lagos suburb of Lekki after dark where many expatriates have been robbed.

- RSO will conduct a briefing of Consulate USDH employees on security precautions in Lagos for private drivers and USDH Consulate personnel.

- RSO will fine-tune guard force officers at residential compounds to positively identify visitors before opening gates.

- Section heads will encourage full participation in weekly radio checks.

- Draft a collective letter from various Embassies/Consulates to the Nigerian Government/Assistant Inspector General requesting increased police presence in our areas.

- Explore the possibility of a centralized emergency response command center (possibly using the Local guard) for residential alarms.

- Section heads will insure that all TDY visitors be scheduled for a security brief upon arrival in Lagos.

4. (U) RSO COMMENT: The recent spike in crime is attributed to the beginning of the holiday season as well as to a sluggish local economy characterized by high unemployment and growing food and fuel prices.

6. (U) The core EAC agreed that post's security posture was adequate pending new information and agreed to meet again as circumstances dictate.

7. (U) The point of contact in this matter is RSO/acting Rod Collins at (office) 234-1-261-1303.

BROWNE